

Two Sharp-tailed Sparrows I took near Tarpon Springs, Florida, in the early spring of 1897, are referable to the new race.

In general plumage *A. c. diversus* has the richest coloring of any of the group, including even spring specimens of *A. nelsoni*. Typical examples of this form in winter resemble very closely some specimens of *nelsoni* in the coloring of the upper parts — much more than they resemble typical examples of *A. caudacutus* — but may be easily distinguished from the former at any season by their larger size, longer bill and very conspicuous dark stripes on the breast and flanks.

In measurement *diversus* and *caudacutus* are practically the same, and intermediates in coloring occurred on Pea Island in winter.

GENERAL NOTES.

Holbæll's Grebe on San Francisco Bay. — On November 30, 1900, three Grebes, which were strange to me, were seen swimming near the shore of the Presidio, one of which I shot. The bird proved to be *Colymbus holbællii* in adult plumage and a female. No others have been seen by me since this date, although a great part of my time is spent upon the lower bay. The only other specimen I know of is a male, No. 1867 of the collection of the California Academy of Sciences, taken December 25, 1882, at Oakland. The Academy also has a single specimen taken at Monterey on December 31, 1894, which is labeled a female and is No. 1433, a record of which is found in 'California Water Birds,' No. II, on page 14. Mr. Leverett M. Loomis, in his extensive work off Monterey, has found this bird very uncommon. It seems to be very rare on lower San Francisco Bay, that is, that portion bounded by the ocean and where the bay branches to spread north and south. It is possible, but not probable, that it occurs on other portions of the bay. — WM. H. KOBBE, *Fort Mason, San Francisco, Cal.*

The Question of the Generic Name *Gavia*. — In the September, 1900, number of the 'Ornithologische Monatsberichte' (Vol. VIII, page 135), Dr. Anton Reichenow claims that the name *Gavia* Forster is a synonym of *Urinator* Cuvier, basing his assumption on the use of the name *Gavia* for a species of Gull by S. G. Gmelin in his 'Reise durch Russland' (Vol. I, page 152).

An examination of Gmelin's work shows that he used the name *Larus* for the Gulls systematically throughout his 'Reise' and only in one instance makes use of the name *Gavia*, and in this case merely as a quasi citation from Brisson, and having no reference whatever to *Gavia* Möhring. The passage in which *Gavia* is used, so far as it has any bearing on the case in point, is as follows: "*Gavia ridibunda phaenicopos*. Die Grosse Lach-Möve. Sie ist von Brisson schön beschrieben worden, und ich habe bey ihr nur zwey Anmerkungen zu machen. Die eine betrifft den Unterschied des Geschlechts, und diese besteht in Schnabel. . ."

On referring to Brisson I find in Vol. VI of his 'Ornithologie,' page 196, that he describes a Gull to which he applies the name *Gavia ridibunda phaenicopos*, to which Gmelin here refers. Brisson, however, did not recognize a genus *Gavia*, but placed all the Gulls under *Larus*, beginning in every case his diagnoses "*Larus supernæ cinereus*," etc., as the case might require. Brisson's genus *Larus* is his genus "No. CII," under which he has 15 species, the technical name of 5 of which begins with the name *Larus* and the remaining 10 with the name *Gavia*, an eccentricity not confined to the genus *Larus*, and of no nomenclatural significance (see, for example, under Brisson's genus *Anser*, where *Cygnus* and *Bernicla* are employed in place of *Anser*).

The use of the name *Gavia* by Gmelin is merely in the sense of a reference to Brisson, he nowhere adopting *Gavia* in a generic sense for any Gull. It is evident, therefore that by no fair construction can *Gavia* be considered as established in a generic sense by S. G. Gmelin in 1770, and that it, "therefore, must be considered as a mere synonym of *Larus*."—J. A. ALLEN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City*.

Occurrence of the Glossy Ibis at Washington, D. C.—A specimen of the Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis autumnalis*) was shot by a hunter near Washington, D. C., September, 1900, and brought to the taxidermist shop of Mr. A. E. Colburn, to be mounted, where I examined it while it was in the flesh and absolutely identified it.

So far as I can learn, this is the first instance of the occurrence of this species in the District of Columbia.—JOHN W. DANIEL, JR., *Lynchburg, Va.*

The Red Phalarope (*Crymophilus fulicarius*) on the Coast of South Carolina.—An adult male of this far northern species was captured alive near the town of Mount Pleasant, S. C., in an exhausted state, by Mr. W. D. Hamlin on December 4, 1900, and presented to the writer. Upon preparing the specimen I found it to be greatly emaciated, but the plumage was entirely unworn. As far as I am aware this is the most southerly record of this bird for the Atlantic coast.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*